

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 06778 240625Z

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 DLOS-07

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 TRSE-00 /109 W

----- 021672

R 240545Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2084

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

UNCLAS TOKYO 6778

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS

SUBJECT: JAPANESE FROZEN SHRIMP MARKET SITUATION REPORT

REF: SAIGON 6379

PASS NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE, WASHDC

1. JAPANESE FROZEN SHRIMP MARKET HAS BEEN DEPRESSED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS DUE TO TIGHT MONEY SITUATION AND CONSUMER RESISTANCE TO HIGH PRICES. SITUATION COMPOUNDED BY RECORD LANDINGS OF FRESH SHRIMP (PENAEUS ORIENTALIS) IN JAPAN ESTIMATED AT OVER 10,000 METRIC TONS DURING SEASON WHICH ENDED IN APRIL, WITH DEALERS PUSHING SALES OF FRESH SHRIMP. SOME IMPORTERS REPORTED VIRTUALLY SUSPENDED THEIR PURCHASES ABROAD AND TRYING TO SELL SHRIMP OF 16-20 COUNT OR LESS TO U.S.

2. SHORT TERM OUTLOOK FOR FROZEN SHRIMP IMPORTS INTO JAPAN NOT BRIGHT. SUMMER TRADITIONALLY RATHER SLOW MONTHS FOR SHRIMP SALES AND SALES NOT EXPECTED TO IMPROVE UNTIL AFTER AUGUST. ACCORDING TO ONE TRADE SOURCE, COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS IN JAPAN IN APRIL ESTIMATED AT 40,000 TONS.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SHELLFISH, SALES, IMPORTS, TRADE, PRICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TOKYO06778
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740130-0438
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740517/aaaaapeh.tel
Line Count: 52
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SAIGON 6379
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 NOV 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPANESE FROZEN SHRIMP MARKET SITUATION REPORT
TAGS: EFIS, JA, VS
To: SAIGON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005